



MINUTES

BOARD OF EQUAL RIGHTS COMMISSIONERS May 20, 2015 at 2:30 PM in Room 301-A

Present:

Aldira Aldape
Marquette Baylor
Kristen Donat
Jeffrey Roman, Chair

Absent:

Mayhoua Moua
Chez Ordonez

Commissioner Roman commenced the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes from the March 18, 2015 ERC meeting.

Commissioner Donat moved approval of the March 18, 2015 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Baylor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Presentation by Captain Peter Pierce, MPD Office of Community Outreach and Education

Chair Roman provided a brief summary of the purpose of the ERC prior to Captain Pierce's presentation.

Captain Pierce explained the many functions in which the Office of Community Outreach and Education is involved. The broad programmatic areas include the Police Auxiliaries, Police Explorer Scouts, the Students Talking it Over with Police (STOP) program, the Citizen's Academy, Catch Auto Thieves (CAT) and Robbery Prevention/Deterrence Training.

The Police Auxiliaries are individuals who are trained in multiple areas related to acting in a volunteer, civilian capacity to assist the police department. Most frequently, the auxiliaries help with traffic control at special events, with security at neighborhood festivals or work with a Community Liaison Officer in organizing block watch meetings. The auxiliaries are distinct from the Police Ambassadors, which are paid positions financed through the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) and local community development block grants. The Office of Community Outreach and Education has also partnered with the Boys and Girls Club, in which once or twice per week officers go into Boys and Girls Club and spend time doing activities with the kids. Additionally, the Boys and Girls Club sponsors kids interested in the Police Explorers program, which is a volunteer program for youth interested in police work.

The Office of Community Outreach and Education facilitates MPD's nationally recognized STOP (Students Talking it Over with Police) program, which commenced in 2010 and has grown from nine to 65 participating public, private and charter schools throughout Milwaukee. The goals of the program are to change the perception of the police in the eyes of Milwaukee's young people, thereby decreasing the chances of an initial volatile interaction, and to educate kids about how to constructively resolve conflict. This year, about 700 kids attended the STOP classes, which involve civics and police science topics, such as the difference between a felony and a misdemeanor, what targeted policing is and citizens' rights. The STOP program is being replicated in other communities and won the Webber Seavey Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 2014. A survey conducted by UWM indicated that 98% of the participants in the STOP program felt the program made them feel better about the police and 88% said their concerns about the police were addressed in the program. Very few graduates of the STOP program have had a subsequent interaction with the police.

Captain Pierce explained that the Office of Community Outreach and Education is addressing the prevention of auto thefts. The rate of auto thefts in Milwaukee has dramatically increased in recent years. Through a partnership with the Automobile Dealers of Greater Milwaukee, approximately 300 anti-theft devices were purchased and installed in cars that are on the top 10 list of the most stolen car models/brands; 98% of the cars in the program have not been stolen.

Commissioner Donat asked how the MPD shares this work on a broader scale and whether the department shows videos, etc. of their successes on social media. Captain Pierce responded that the department employs a public information officer who does utilize social media to share the department's programming and successes.

Commissioner Aldape asked how the ERC can help and support the MPD in these efforts and in improving the community/police relations. Captain Pierce responded that creating relationships will take time and investment. Additionally, the police must engage the youth of the community in the discussion in order to improve the relationship with them. Captain Pierce said that having a representative from the department talk to the ERC periodically is helpful, as the community tells the department what the issues are and a better voice from the community is always good. Captain Pierce concluded by saying that Milwaukee is in good shape in many ways, as the MPD is proactive and a programmatic leader nationally. Captain Pierce invited the ERC to attend the STOP program graduation on 5/21/15 at the Panther Arena; there are 1700 people scheduled to attend the event. Commissioner Roman thanked Captain Pierce for attending the ERC meeting and for all of the great work that his division is doing for the community.

3. Approval of funding for LGBT Know Your Rights Card; Moved by Baylor; seconded by Aldape

Commissioner Donat stated that Attorney Danielle Bailey is drafting an LGBT Know your Rights card on behalf of the LGBT Bar of Wisconsin and is still finalizing the content. Clark Graphics has quoted a price of \$311.22 for 1000 cards in color; Ms. Bailey would like to print 5000 for festivals and distribute to youth groups. The ERC logo would be on the back of the card, in color, as the card's sponsor. Commissioner Aldape asked whether there are any other sponsors. Commissioner Donat responded that there are not. Commissioner Baylor asked whether there is a way to bring the price down. Commissioner Donat responded that there is a volume discount. Commissioner Baylor moved to approve up to \$1000 for the printing of the

LGBT Know Your Rights cards; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Aldape and approved unanimously.

4. Approval of \$150.00 participation fee for table at Juneteenth Day celebration and schedule staffing of booth;

The commissioners discussed staffing the booth at Juneteenth Day and concluded that their scheduling conflicts precluded participation this year. Commissioner Donat moved that the ERC not sponsor a table this year; Commissioner Baylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Announcement by Commissioners of upcoming community activities.

Commissioner Aldape said that she has submitted a ballot to be on the Parents' Council at Riverside University High School, which will enable her to be engaged in the educational decisions of the school and involved in the school community. The term would be for two years.

The Commission acknowledged that this would be Commissioner Donat's last meeting. Commissioner Aldape thanked Commissioner Donat for her time on the ERC, for her advocacy and for the education she provided on LGBT issues. Commissioner Aldape said that the ERC will continue her work. Commissioner Roman acknowledged that Commissioner Donat's departure leaves two vacancies on the ERC. Commissioner Roman said that recommendations for filling the vacancies can be shared with the mayor's office or with Ms. Monteagudo.

Commissioner Roman mentioned the My Brother's Keeper Initiative Neighborhood Summit is on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at Our Redeemer Church (9:30 – 5 p.m.). This summit is organized by the Mayor's Office and by Alderman Hamilton.

6. Confirm next meeting date and location;

Commissioner Roman suggested that since there will be a new Executive Director of FPC in the coming months and one of the major initiatives of the ERC is to support the FPC, that a new meeting date can be set once that individual is appointed. Commissioner Roman suggested that the next meeting be offsite – perhaps at the Hillside Housing Development – and include a public comment portion.

The ERC tentatively schedule the subcommittee meetings for June 8, 2015 at 3:00-4:00, subject to member availability.

7. Adjourn.

Commissioner Donat moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Baylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.